



NASA Flight Opportunities

Testing Lunar Landing and Surface Sampling Technologies Suborbitally

Kris Zacny, Ph.D., Vice President of Exploration Systems, Honeybee Robotics
Luke Sanasarian, Engineering Lead, Honeybee Robotics
Reuben Garcia, Director of Technical Operations, Masten Space Systems

Community of Practice Webinar Series – March 2, 2022

Session will start at 10 a.m. PT – Please mute your microphone and turn off your camera

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NASA FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES



Welcome to the Community of Practice Webinar Series!

First, a bit of housekeeping...

- Please mute your microphone and turn off your camera
- Today's session will be recorded
- Recordings for all future sessions are on the Flight Opportunities website
- Please engage!
 - Use the chat throughout the session to ask questions

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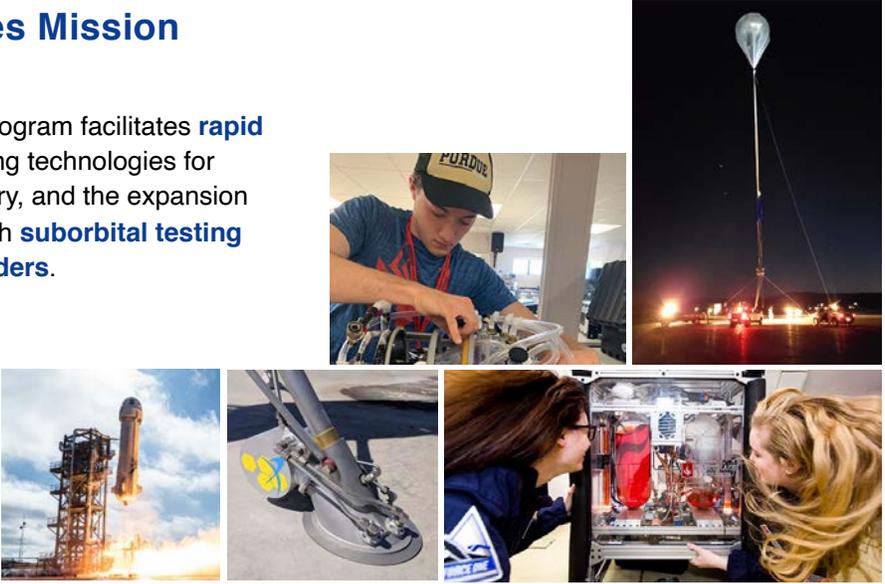
NASA FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Flight Opportunities Mission

The Flight Opportunities program facilitates **rapid demonstration** of promising technologies for space exploration, discovery, and the expansion of space commerce through **suborbital testing with industry flight providers**.



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National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Join us for future Community of Practice webinars!

From Suborbital Flight to the International Space Station

Wednesday, April 6th at 10 am PT

Future webinars

- Webinars are held 1st Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. PT
- Topics will be announced in the Flight Opportunities newsletter and website
- Session recordings will be posted on the Flight Opportunities website
- Let us know session topics you would like to see covered

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NASA TechLeap Prize

Nighttime Precision Landing Challenge No.1

Seeking proposals for sensing systems that can detect hazards from an altitude of 250 meters or higher and process the data in real time to help spacecraft land safely in the dark

- Open to researchers from qualified commercial businesses and academic institutions, as well as individual entrepreneurs and other innovators
- Up to three winners may receive awards of up to \$650,000 and access to a suborbital flight test
- Key Dates
 - Q&A on April 12, 2022
 - Register by May 5, 2022
 - Applications due May 19, 2022
- <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/armstrong/features/techleap-lunar-landings.html>
- <https://www.precisionlanding1.nasatechleap.org/>




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Today's Speakers



Kris Zacny, Ph.D.
Vice President of Exploration Systems
Honeybee Robotics



Luke Sanasarian
Engineering Lead
Honeybee Robotics



Reuben Garcia
Director of Technical Operations
Masten Space Systems

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**Masten Xodiac & PlanetVac
Suborbital Test Flights**
March 2, 2022



HONEYBEE ROBOTICS

Honeybee Robotics
2408 Lincoln Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001
www.HoneybeeRobotics.com



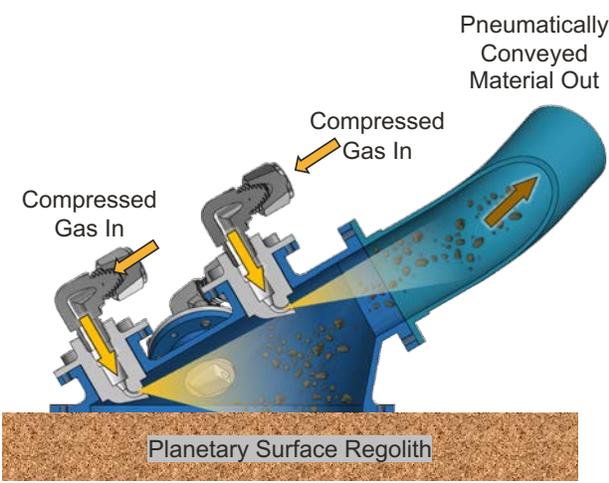
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What is PlanetVac?



HONEYBEE ROBOTICS

PlanetVac is a technology developed by Honeybee Robotics that uses stored gas to pneumatically collect surface regolith from a planetary body.



Compressed Gas In

Compressed Gas In

Pneumatically Conveyed Material Out

Planetary Surface Regolith

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Why PlanetVac?



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PlanetVac adds another tool in the planetary sampling toolbox

Parameters	Robotic arm and scoop	PlanetVac
		
Mass, Volume, Power	High	Low
Cost, Complexity	High	Low
Sampling time	Hours – Days	Seconds
Relies on gravity	Yes	No
Can easily meter out?	No	Yes
Kinematic flexibility	No	Yes
Ability to sample >1 location	<u>Yes</u>	No
Sample size	<u>High</u>	Small

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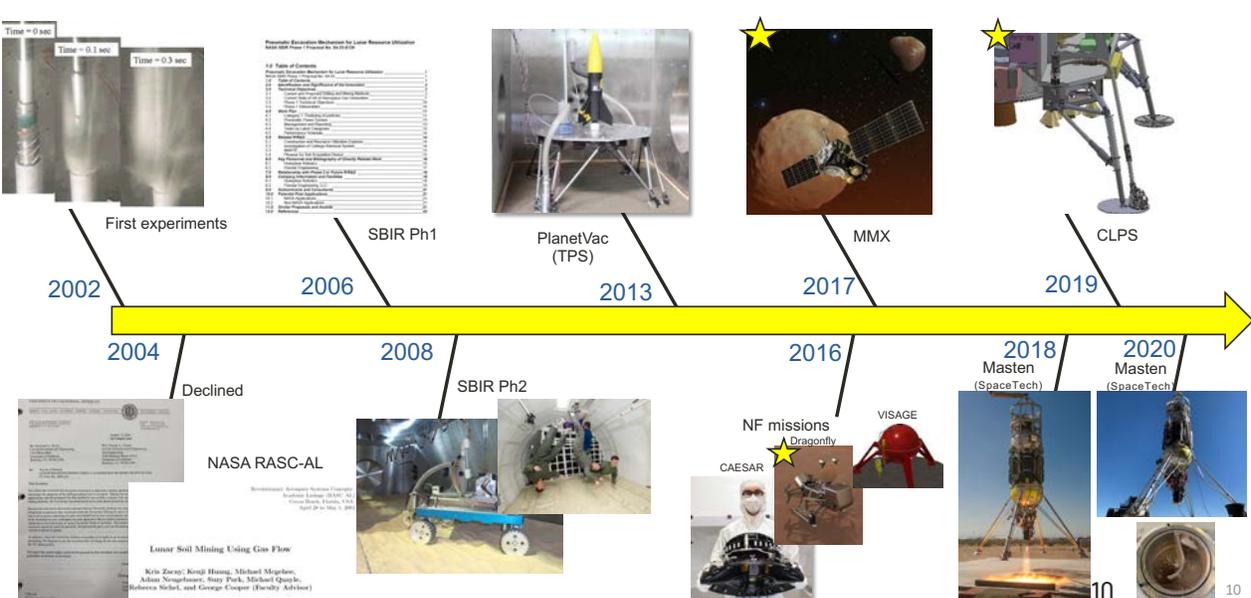
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PlanetVac Heritage



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★ Flight programs



Timeline highlights:

- 2002:** First experiments (Time = 0 sec, 0.1 sec, 0.3 sec)
- 2004:** Declined NASA RASC-AL (Lunar Soil Mining Using Gas Flow)
- 2006:** SBIR Ph1
- 2008:** SBIR Ph2
- 2013:** PlanetVac (TPS)
- 2016:** NF missions (CAESAR, Dragonfly, VISAGE)
- 2017:** MMX (★)
- 2018:** Masten (SpaceTech)
- 2019:** CLPS (★)
- 2020:** Masten (SpaceTech)

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Test Campaign Background



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Through NASA's Flight Opportunities and REDDI programs, Honeybee Robotics was able to fly an iteration of PlanetVac mounted as the foot of the Masten Space Systems Xodiac Suborbital Vehicle

This was PlanetVac's second test campaign on-board Xodiac



PlanetVac on Masten Xodiac Vehicle during flight and right before landing

Photo Credit: Masten Space Systems

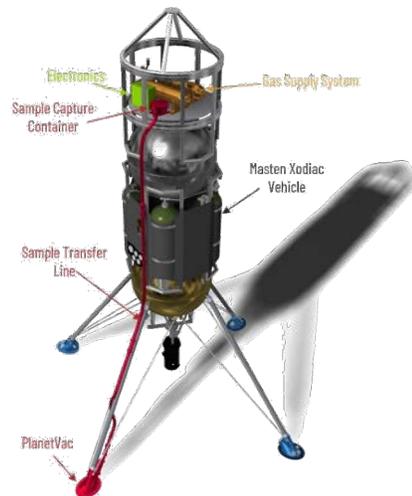
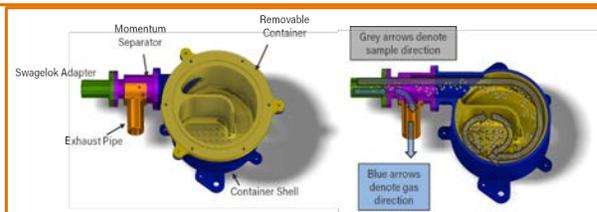
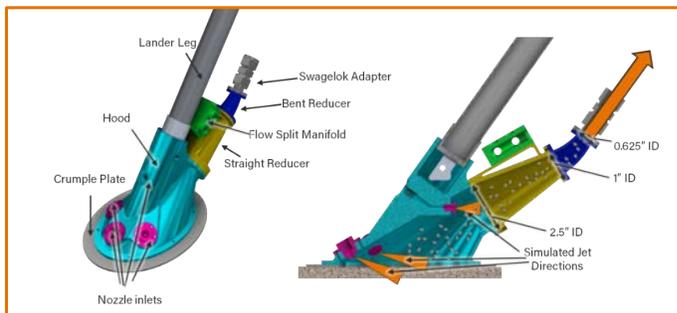
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Test Configuration



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Test Campaign Goals



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Goals: Increase TRL of PlanetVac system by performing tests in more representative and conservative environments relative to future flight deployments than previous Masten PlanetVac flights. Begin to understand the impact of testing on Earth vs a planetary body.

PlanetVac Was Tested In A Conservative Way:

Atmospheric Pressure	Gravity	Elevation Gain	Compaction	Pneumatic Line Length	Supply Pressure
Earth Atmosphere	Earth Gravity	~3 meters	Varies	~5 meters	220 psig regulated line pressure
Conservative to Lunar Baseline	Conservative to Lunar Baseline	Conservative to Lunar Baseline	Comparable to Lunar Baseline	Conservative to Lunar Baseline	Conservative to Lunar Baseline

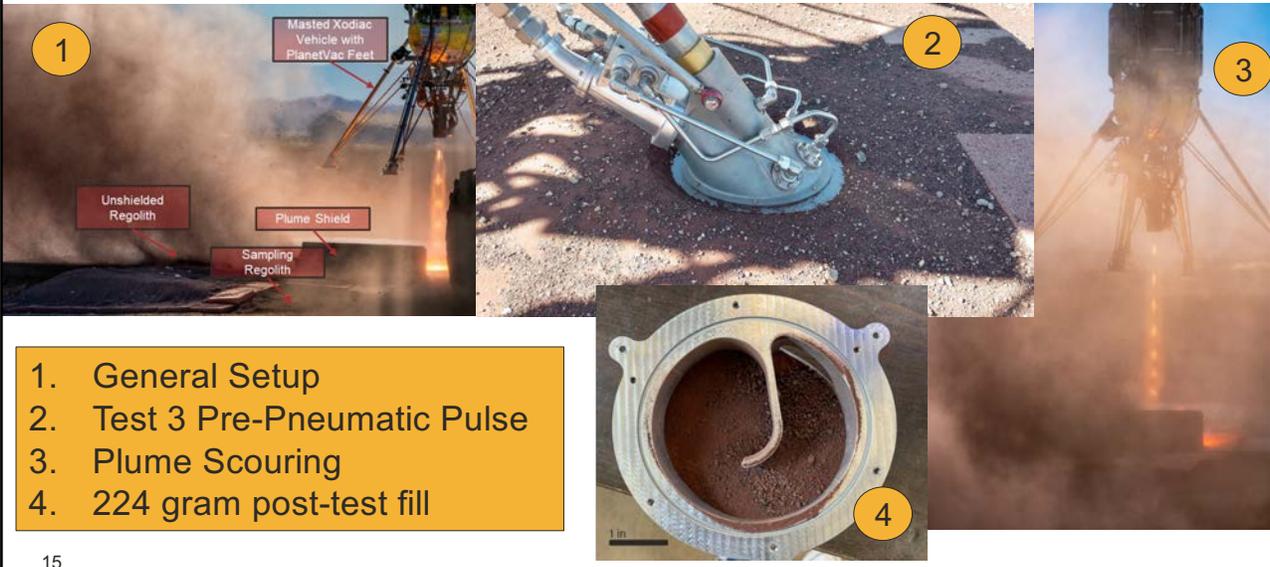
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Test Images



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1. General Setup
2. Test 3 Pre-Pneumatic Pulse
3. Plume Scouring
4. 224 gram post-test fill

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Test Videos (2018 Deployment)



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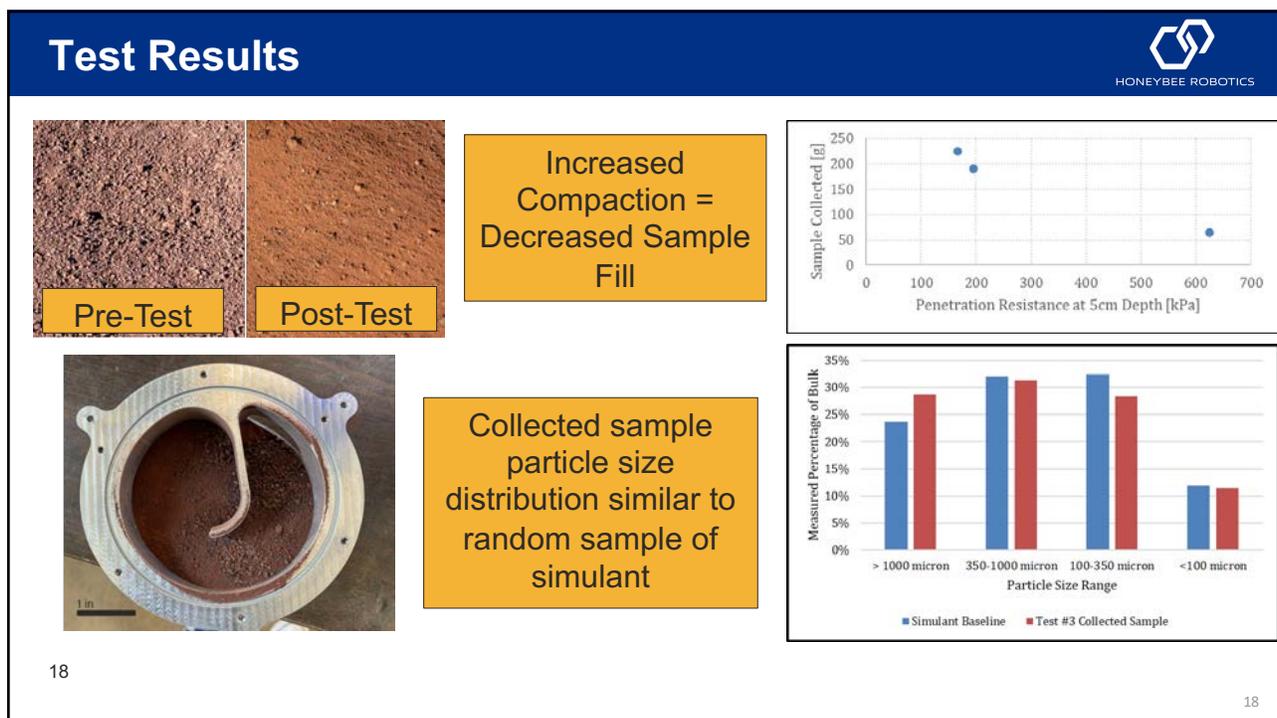
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Test Results

Test #	Environment / Flight Pattern	Penetration Resistance @5cm depth Before / After Test	Pulse Parameters	Sample Collected	Notes
0	Ground demo on vehicle	Uncompacted*	220 psig; 5 seconds	90 grams	No Flight
1	High stands tether	Extreme compaction*	220 psig; 5 seconds	0.7 grams	Unmeasured High Compaction larger than lunar condition
2	High Stands Tether	Before Flight: 145 kPa Post Flight: 195 kPa	220 psig; 20 seconds	190.3 grams	Regolith pit scoured by incoming plume
3	High Stands Tether	Before Flight: 130 kPa Post Flight: 166 kPa	220 psig; 20 seconds	224.2 grams	Regolith pit blocked off from incoming plume
4	Ground to Ground	Before Flight: 290 kPa Post Flight: 625 kPa	220 psig; 20 seconds	65.0 grams	High compaction test
5	Ground Demo	160 kPa	220 psig; 20 seconds	11.1 grams	Placed onto uneven footing after scrubbed ground to ground attempt

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Acknowledgements



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Special thanks to Masten Space Systems for providing the flights and Texas A&M for CFD support.

Photos are credited to Honeybee Robotics and Masten Space Systems unless otherwise specified.

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MASTEN OVERVIEW

THE SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY

In 2004, Masten pioneered the development of reusable VTVL technology with the ultimate goal of unlocking the value of space.

We're enabling a future where...

- Lunar landings are commonplace
- Space ecosystems are thriving with commercial leadership
- Humankind is benefiting from resources extracted across the solar system

1st Commercial company to deploy reusable vertical takeoff and vertical landing (VTVL) rockets

600+ Successful rocket-powered landings across 5 rockets, leading the industry in number of flights

1 of 4 Companies selected by NASA to deliver payloads to the Moon

1st Independent rocket testbed, which validated the landing technology for the successful 2020 mission to Mars

17+ Years' experience building & flying rockets to prepare for lunar and Martian missions

1st To develop new additive manufacturing methods for rockets & liquid propulsion

MASTEN 22

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MASTEN SOLUTIONS

ACCELERATING SPACE ECOSYSTEMS ON THE MOON, MARS & BEYOND

Tech Development

Developing new tech to solve the most pressing space exploration challenges.



3D-printed rocket parts



Propulsion technologies



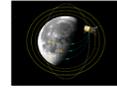
Landing pad technologies



Lander warming systems



Rocket mining system



Lunar "GPS" network

Terrestrial Testbed

Testing technologies aboard our terrestrial landers & engine stands to advance readiness for space.



Xombie



Xoie



Xaero-A



Xaero-B



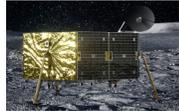
Xodiac



Xogdor

Lunar Delivery

Providing end-to-end mission solutions to safely deliver and operate payloads aboard our lunar landers.



Xelene



XL-2



Xeus



TERRESTRIAL TESTBED

RETIRING RISK WITH EARTH-BASED TESTING

Entry, Descent, and Landing Tests



JPL Lander Vision System & G-FOLD algorithm on Xombie

Suborbital Payload Testing



Honeybee Robotics' PlanetVac on Xodiac

Plume Surface Interaction Testing



UCF Ejecta STORM instrument on Xodiac



TERRESTRIAL TESTBED

WORKING WITH MASTEN TO ADVANCE TECH READINESS



Technical specs & ConOps discussions



Technology integration



Closed-loop tether flights



Data analysis & iteration



Open-loop free flights



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moon@masten.aero

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